

ОБРЕДНО ИЗКУСТВО

ARTE RITUAL

RITUAL ART



**ИЗ СЪКРОВИЩНИЦАТА НА
НАЦИОНАЛНИЯ ЕТНОГРАФСКИ МУЗЕЙ**

**DEL PATRIMONIO DEL
MUSEO ETNOGRAFICO NACIONAL**

**FROM THE TREASURESTORE OF THE
NATIONAL ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM**

ПОРЕДИЦАТА ЩЕ ПРЕДСТАВИ НАЙ-ХУБАВИТЕ ОБРАЗЦИ
ОТ ПЕТДЕСЕТ ХИЛЯДНИЯ ФОНД НА НАЦИОНАЛНИЯ
ЕТНОГРАФСКИ МУЗЕЙ

АЛБУМЪТ СЕ ПУБЛИКУВА С ПОМОЩТА НА ДАРЕНИЕ ОТ
ПРАВИТЕЛСТВОТО НА КРАЛСТВО ИСПАНИЯ

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EL PRESENTE ALBUM SE EDITA GRACIAS A UN DONATI-
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RITUAL ART

The rich collection of the National Ethnographic Museum houses hundreds of artefacts associated with the magic and religious beliefs and ideas of the Bulgarian people. Most of them have been made for a specific ritual and are an integral part of the entire ritual set. The ritual objects have been brought together by the idea to reveal their sacral role through the medium of the language of art. That role determines the material, colour range, images and shapes of the objects as well as their function within the ritual and in everyday life.

Ritual loaves of bread, dyed Easter eggs, different kinds of amulets, koukeri masks of the koukeri masked dancers and other objects feature among the works of ritual art. Most of them were made in the family environment by non-professional masters: men and women, giving expression to their world outlook ideas and aesthetic ideals.

The ritual loaves of bread are among the most specific works of Bulgarian folk art. Their shape and each ornament on them present the profound symbolism of the ritual in which they are involved. In some cases, instead of plastic decorations, seals featuring Christian symbols or the initials of the family were put on top the loaves. The seals themselves, cut out of wood or stone, are also referred to the objects of folk art.

The dyed Easter eggs, with their wide range of colours and images, are bearers of ancient heathen and Christian symbolism. It is an expression of the popular ideas of the life-giving principle and life-giving forces, of the passage and the cyclic character of life. Through these symbols, an expression is given to the hope for fertility, happiness and love. A maiden presents an Easter egg to her fiancé as a token of love.

The National Ethnographic Museum houses a rich collection of most varied amulets. Particularly interesting are the head gears of the maidens involved in the rituals of St Lazarus's Feast Day, the day before Palm Sunday. These are maidens, who on attaining marriageable age were presented to the rural community in a specific ritual. A kind of an amulet are the martenitsas, twisted red and white threads. On March 1, they were, as a rule, hung on a place to be seen by all as a wish for good health, happiness, and as a protection against evil forces. A blue bead, a little silver coin, a clove of garlic, a mussel or a hawthorn was added to the twisted threads to

enhance their magic power. Throughout the whole year the martenitsa "guarded" the good health and beauty of the new-born babies, of the maidens and of the young brides. Women and men alike wore amulets to protect them from evil eyes, from evil breaths and from evil magic. Moreover they hung them on distaffs and attached them onto the farm stock.

Votive tablets, called obrotsi in Bulgarian, are among the most interesting exhibits of the museum collection. They used to be presented to the Church and were hung onto a specific icon. They were made of silver and recreated a sick part of the human body. Good health was requested for the donor through them. The images featuring on the votive tablets are far from the canonic Christian symbols, but they reveal unambiguously the close intertwining of the Christian and heathen ideas and beliefs in the popular world outlook.

The folk artists also created works, used in the Christian religious service, and decorated with the Christian symbols. The triptych icon (an icon with shutters) has been a basic part of the iconostasis at home; church icons; crosses of various functions; wood-carved church iconostases; reliquiaries - these are but some of the objects, kept in the Museum. Some of them bring to view the non-professional hand of their maker; both in the workmanship and in the presentation of the characters the schematic approach is obvious; nevertheless they present the personal experiencing of the religious canon by the maker. The master craftsmen laid the emphasis on the natural beauty of the material, as if trying to conceal the technical imperfections of the images.

The collection of the National Ethnographic Museum also includes numerous objects produced by professional artists of icons, wood-carvers, and goldsmiths. There are magnificent samples of woodcarving of church iconostases and altar gates, of crosses and icons, adorned with miniature wood-carvings, executed with a needle and a small knife. The images of the church icons are an evidence that working in the 19th century in Bulgaria were artists, whose skill went far beyond the ideas of folk art. These painters did not leave their names on the masterpieces they had produced, because they probably did not have the self-confidence of creative individuals. In this way, their works fit in what has been referred to as Bulgarian folk art. By their intricate symbolism and high aesthetic qualities, the ritual objects are among the best samples presenting the Bulgarian creative spirit.



Инв. № Д-3 - Обредно хлебче "гугутета" за деца през пролетните празници, Самоковско, XX в.

Inv. № D-3 - Panecillo ritual "guguteta" para niños durante las fiestas primaverales, región de Samokov,

Inv. № D-3 - "Gougouteta" small ritual loaf of bread for children for the springtime feasts; region of Samokov, 20th century.



Инв. № Д-15 - Обреден хляб за Великден, Ихтиман, XX в.

Inv. № D-15 - Pan ritual de Pascuas de Resurrección, región de Ihtiman, s.20

Inv. № D-15 - Easter ritual loaf of bread, region of Ihtiman, 20th century.



Инв. № 16930 - Печат за хляб от камък, Устово - Смолянско, XIX в.

Inv. № 16930 - Sello de piedra para pan ritual, Ustovo-región de Smolian, s.19

Inv. № 16930 - Stone bread seal, Oustovo, Smolyan region, 19th century.



Инв. № 28766 - Семейен печат за хляб с инициали на рода, дървен от Самоков, XX в.

Inv. № 28766 - Sello familiar de madera con las iniciales de la familia para un pan ritual, Sámokov, s.20

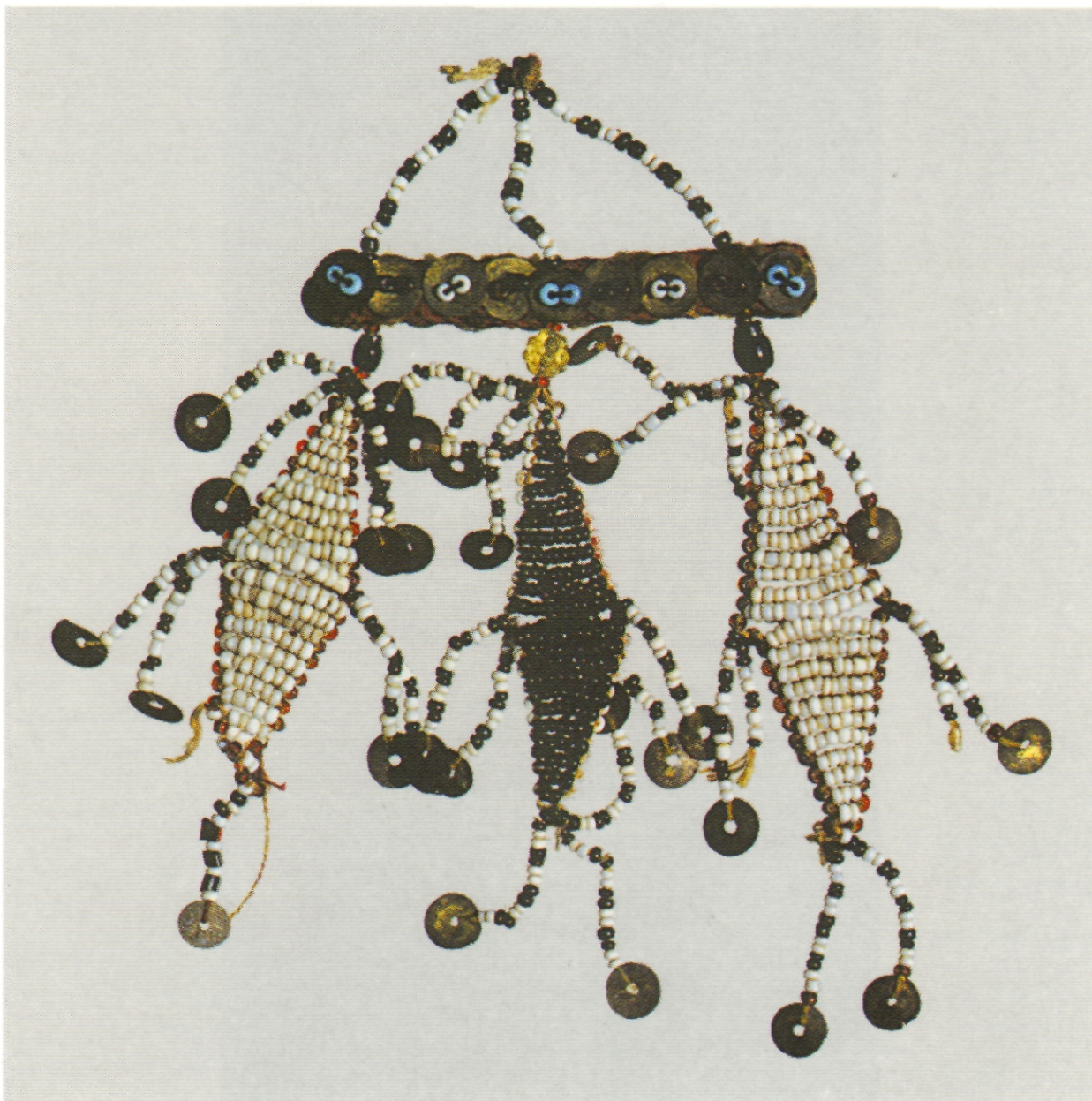
Inv. № 28766 - Wooden family bread seal with the initials of the family, Samokov, 20th century.



Инв. № Д-12 - Великденски писани яйца от Ихтиманско, XX в.

Inv. № D-12 - Huevos pintados de Pascuas de Resurrección, región de Ijtimán, s.20

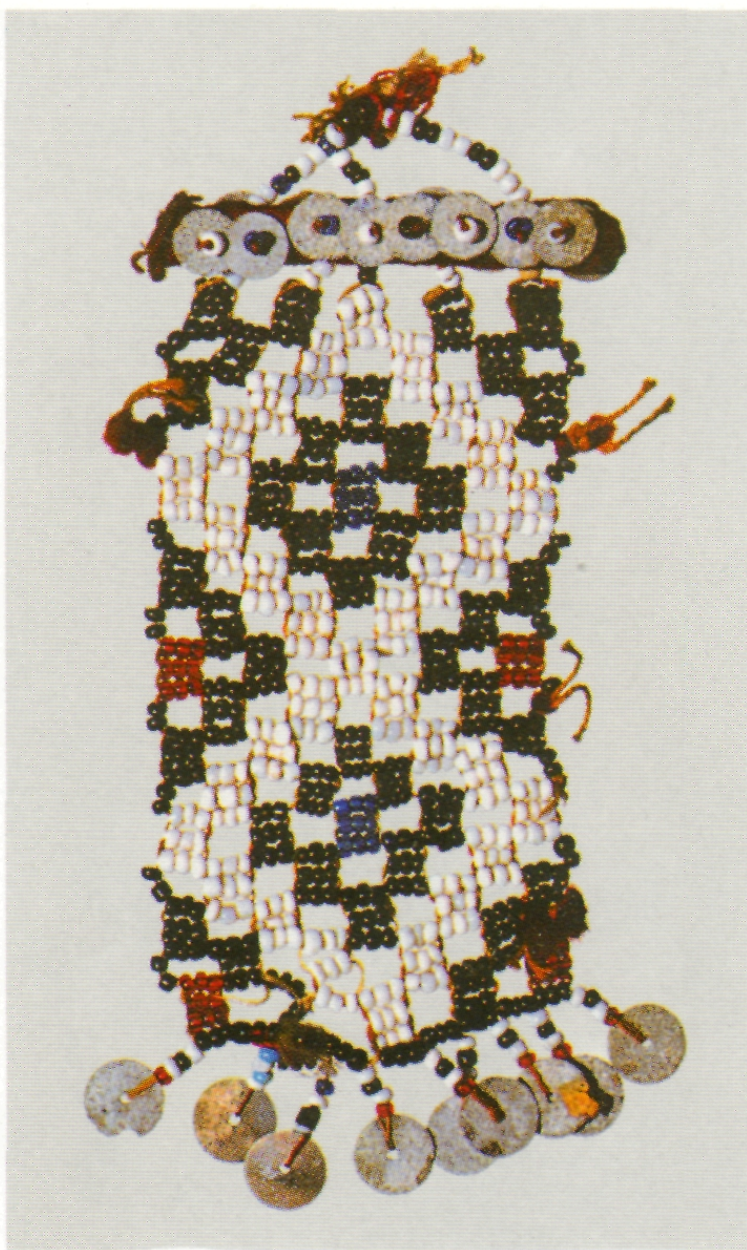
Inv. № D-12 - Easter dyed eggs from the region of Ihtiman, 20th century.



Инв. № 30194 - Лазарски накит за глава от мъниста,
Варненско, XIX в.

Inv. № 30194 - Adorno de cabeza de abalorios, usado por las mozas
lázarki, región de Varna, s.19

Inv. № 30194 - Head gear of beads of a girl involved in the ritual of
St Lazarus' Feast Day, region of Varna, 19th century.



Инв. № 30193 - Лазарски накит за глава от разноцветни мъниста, Варненско, XIX в.

Inv. № 30193 - Adorno de cabeza de abalorios multicolores, usado por las lázarki, región de Varna, s.19

Inv. № 30193 - Head gear of multi-coloured beads of a girl involved in the ritual of St Lazarus' Feast Day, region of Varna, 19th century.



Инв. № Д-20 - Мартеница - амулет
от Крумовградско, XX в.

Inv. № D-20 - mártenitza, amuleto de la
región de Krúmovgrad, s.20

Inv. № D-20 - Martenitsa amulet from
the region of Kroumovgrad, 20th
century.



Инв. № 13556 - Амулет с муска от бронз, триъгълен, от Хасковско, XIX в.

Inv. № 13556 - Amuleto con mascota de bronce, triangular, región de Jáskovo, s.19

Inv. № 13556 - Bronze triangular amulet-talisman from the region of Haskovo, 19th century.



Инв. № 1273 - Кръст двустранен от сребърна сплав, неизв. произход, XIX в.

Inv. № 1273 - Cruz bilateral de aleación de plata, procedencia desconocida, s.19

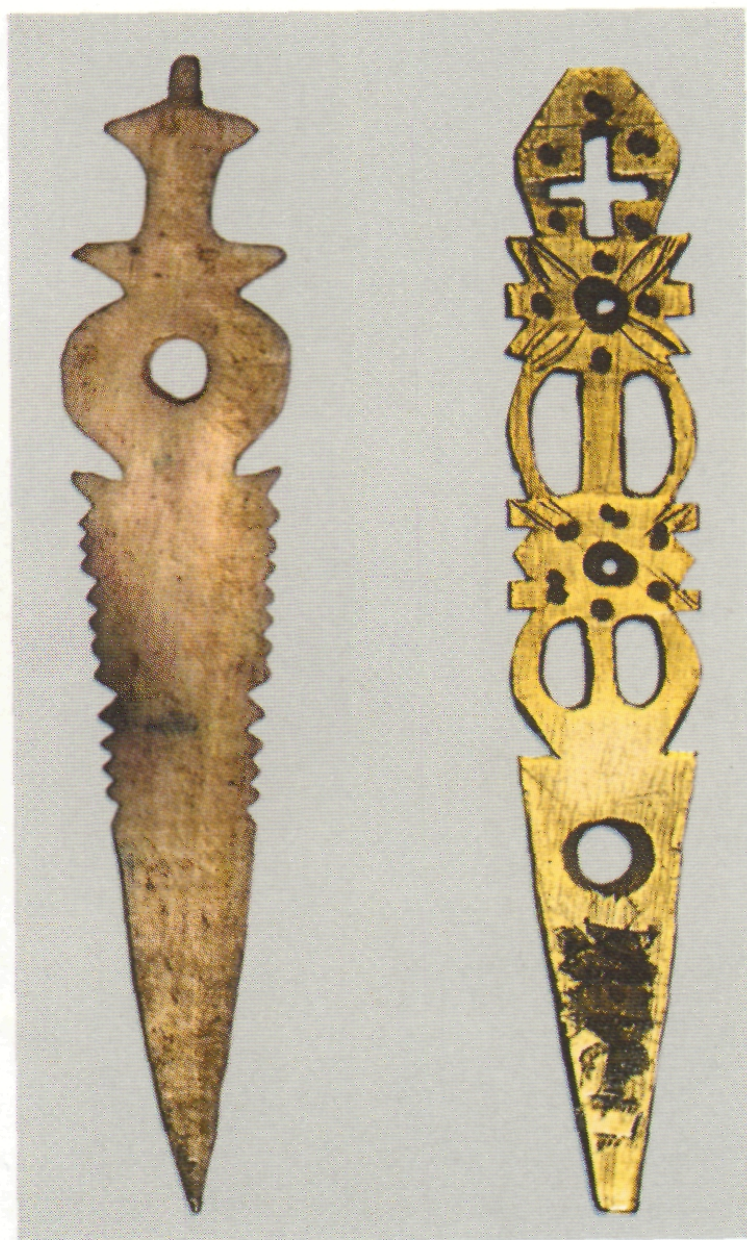
Inv. № 1273 - Two-sided cross of silver alloy, unknown origin, 19th century.



Инв. № 1319 - Икона - триптих, метална, неизв. произход, XIX в.

Inv. № 1319 - Icono tríptico de metal, procedencia desconocida, s.19

Inv. № 1319 - Metal triptych, unknown origin, 19th century.



Инв. № 23426 - Амулети за хурка
(кокалчета), Преславско, XIX в.

Inv. № 23426 - Amuletos para huso
(huesecillos), región de Preslav, s.19

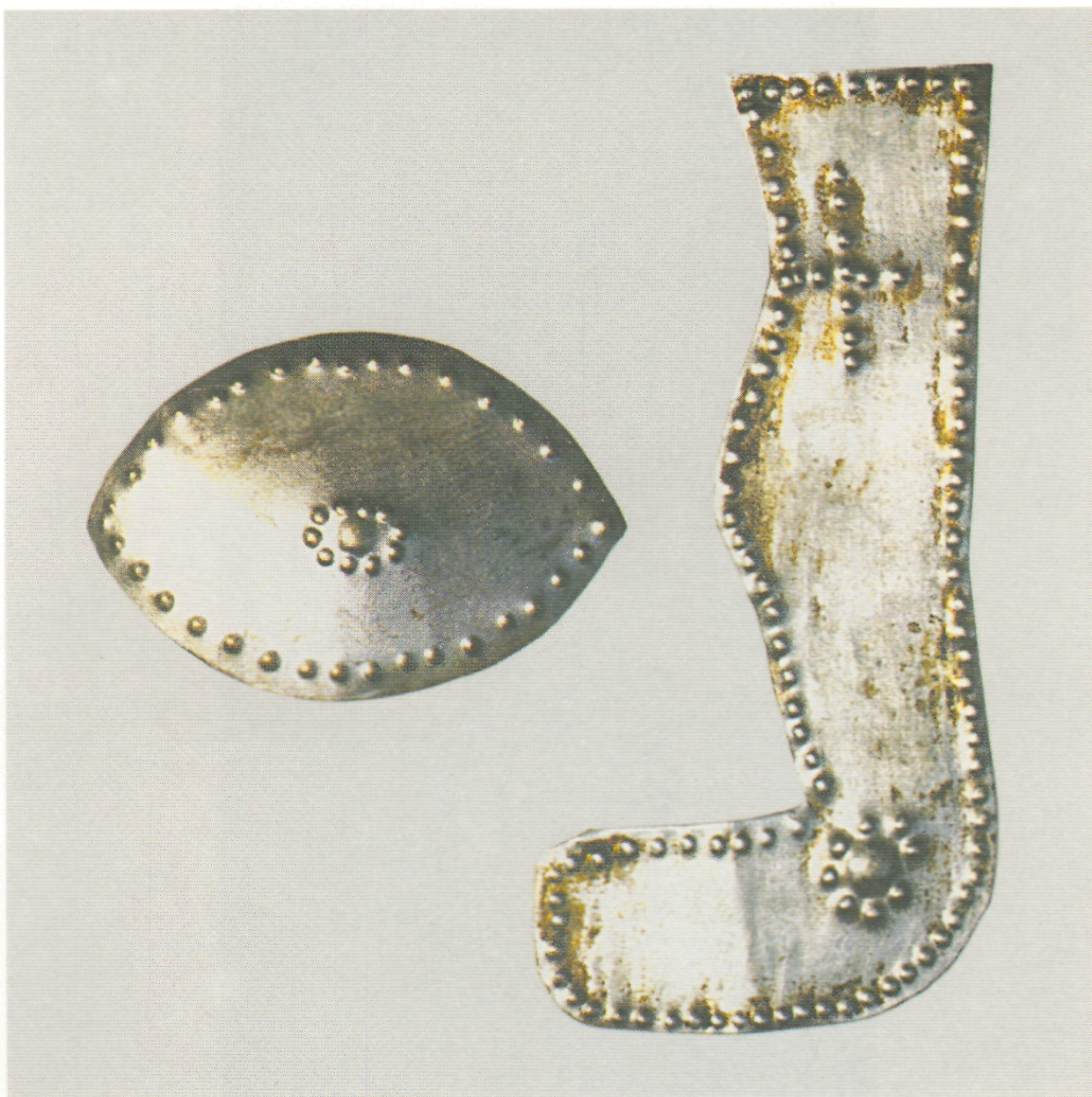
Inv. № 23426 - Amulets for a distaff,
region of Preslav, 19th century.



Инв. № 20168 - Амулет за кон от глигански зъби, Смолянско, XIX в.

Inv. № 20618 - Amuleto para caballo de dientes de jabalí, región de Smolian, s.19

Inv. № 20618 - Horse amulet made of wild boar's tusks, region of Smolyan, 19th century.



Инв. № 1250 - Вотив - крак от сребърна сплав, Югоизточна България, XIX в.

Inv. № 1250 - Votivo-pierna de aleación de plata, Bulgaria Sudeste, s.19

Inv. № 1250 - Votive tablet of a leg, made of silver alloy, South-eastern Bulgaria, 19th century.

Инв. № 1253 - Вотив - око от сребърна сплав, Югоизточна България, XIX в.

Inv. № 1253 - Votivo-ojo de aleación de plata, Bulgaria Sudeste, s.19

Inv. № 1253 - Votive tablet of an eye, made of silver alloy, South-eastern Bulgaria, 19th century.



Инв. № 1247 - Вотив от сребърна сплав - ръка, неизв. произход, XIX в.

Inv. № 1247 - Votivo-brazo de aleación de plata, procedencia desconocida, s.19

Inv. № 1247 - A votive tablet of a hand made of silver alloy, unknown origin, 19th century.



Инв. № 1264 - Вотив - ръка от
сребърна сплав, неизв. произход,
XIX в.

Inv. № 1264 - Votivo-brazo de aleación
de plata, procedencia desconocida, s.19

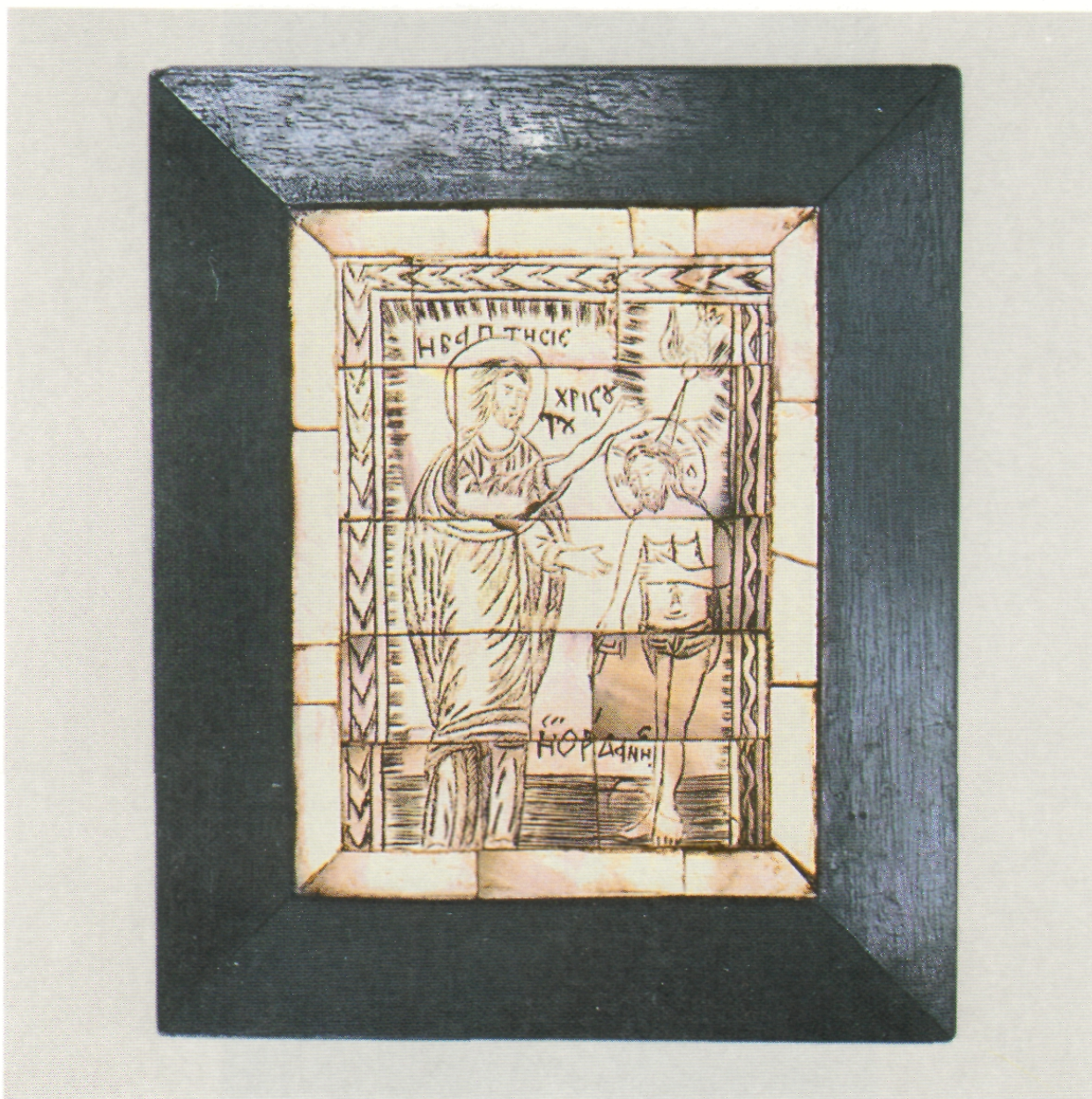
Inv. № 1264 - Votive tablet of a hand,
made of silver alloy, unknown origin,
19th century.



Инв. № 1258 - Вотив - човешка фигура от сребърна сплав,
Югоизточна България, XIX в.

Inv. № 1258 - Votivo-figura humana de aleación de plata, Bulgaria
Sudeste, s.19

Inv. № 1258 - Votive tablet of a human figure made of silver alloy,
South-eastern Bulgaria, 19th century.



Инв. № 28647 - Седефена икона "Кръщението на Христос" от София, XIX в.

Inv. № 28647 - Icono de nácar "Bautizo de Jesucristo" de Sofia, s.19

Inv. № 28647 - Mother-of-pearl icon "The Baptism of Christ" from Sofia, 19th century.



Инв. № 24546 - Седефен кръст от
Самоков, XIX в.

Inv. № 24546 - Cruz de nácar de
Sámokov, s.19

Inv. № 24546 - Mother-of-pearl cross
from Samokov, 19th century.



Инв. № 23482 - Кръст от чемширово дърво със седефена украса - "Рождество Христово" от Самоков, XIX в.

Inv. № 23482 - Cruz de madera de boje con decorado de nácar, "Nacimiento de Jesucristo", Sámokov, s.19

Inv. № 23482 - Boxwood cross with mother-of-pearl decoration
"Christmas", region of Samokov, 19th century.



Инв. № 30334 - Икона - триптих, темперна рисунка от Троянско, XIX в.

Inv. № 30334 - Icono-tríptico, pintura al temple, región de Troyán, s.19

Inv. № 30334 - Triptych, distemper from the region of Troyan, 19th century.



Инв. № 1347 - Дърворезбен кръст с обков, неизв. произход, XIX в.

Inv. № 1347 - Cruz tallada en madera con enchapado, procedencia desconocida, s.19

Inv. № 1347 - Wood-carved cross with embossment, unknown origin, 19th century.



Инв. № 29946 - Двустранна икона,
дърворезба с образите на св.
Димитър и св. Богородица, Самоков,
XIX в.

Inv. № 29946 - Icono bilateral, tallado en
madera con las imágenes de San
Demetrio y la Virgen María, Sámokov,
s.19

Inv. № 29946 - Two-sided icon, wood-
carving with the images of St Demetrius
and the Holy Virgin, Samokov, 19th cen-
tury.



Инв. № 29946 - Двустранна икона,
дърворезба с образите на св.
Димитър и св. Богородица, Самоков,
XIX в.

Inv. № 29946 - Icono bilateral, tallado en
madera con las imágenes de San
Demetrio y la Virgen María, Sámokov,
s.19

Inv. № 29946 - Two-sided icon, wood-
carving with the images of St Demetrius
and the Holy Virgin, Samokov, 19th cen-
tury.



Инв. № 44047 - Икона "Христос Вседържател", темперна техника върху дърво от Македония, XIX в.

Inv. № 44047 - Icono de Jesucristo, pintura al temple sobre madera, Macedonia, s.19

Inv. № 44047 - Icon of Christ Pantokrator, distemper on wood, from Macedonia, 19th century.



Инв. № 19101 - Олтарни двери,
дърворезба от църквата "св. Георги"
в Златица, XIX в.

Inv. № 19101 - Puertas reales de altar,
tallado en madera, de la iglesia
"San Jorge" de Zlatitza, s.19

Inv. № 19101 - Altar gates, woodcar-
ving, from the Church of "St George"
in Zlatitsa, 19th century.

